U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

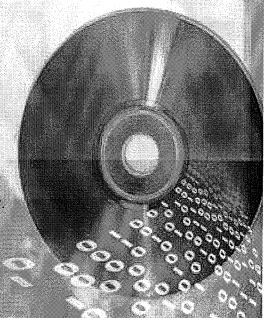


Phoenix-Opportunity Application: A Free Online Bid-Matching System

Phoenix is an on-line database in which you register your minority company with the Minority Business Development Agency's database of minority business enterprises using the Internet. With this tool, you will be able to access contract opportunities and other information vital to the success of your business. You will also be able to receive leads about business opportunities and seek business partners.

The Phoenix database is very different from most business registration and contract referral systems found in government and private industry today. First, unlike most private services, Phoenix is free of charge. Second, Phoenix permits you to register once and receive many public and private contract referrals. Third, government and some private services require that you search lengthy databases of contract opportunities on-line. This is time-consuming and difficult, as the wording and context of the contract notices are often confusing and the information outdated. Phoenix sorts the leads database for you each night and automatically refers opportunities to you via simply worded email or fax. You receive timely information without extensive searching. As your business grows and you increase your capabilities, you can use your personal password to update your business profile on-line at any time. When a match is made, you receive the dollar amount of the contract, time and place for delivery, contact information and bonding or other requirements. The offering company receives your corporate contact information, email and Internet home page (if available). You also receive information about minority business support services that may assist you with bid preparation, finance or bonding.

To get started, you must be a registered MBE. You can create your FREE MBDA Portal Account by visiting the MBDA.gov website. If you are a registered MBE, once you have logged into the MBDA Portal, you'll find the **Phoenix** link underneath our our MBDA Business Applications section on the front page. If you have never created a **Phoenix** profile, you will need to do so in order for you to start receiving opportunities. If you need assistance with creating your **Phoenix** profile or if you need assistance with registering for your free MBDA Portal Account, call our support staff at 1 (888) 324-1551 or you may email us at help@mbda.gov.





Resource Locator Application: A Free Business Resource Database for MBEs

The RESOURCE LOCATOR is an Internet-based tool that allows Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) to search for business resources interactively on the Internet. The Resource Locator can help MBEs identify trade associations representing their industries, government licensing and permit offices, management and technical assistance providers, and a host of other resources quickly and efficiently.

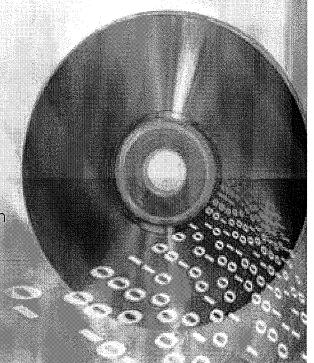
The Resource Locator will help you find organizations that specialize in starting, operating and expanding a business. We add new resources and update information weekly so come back and visit us periodically.

To get started, you would simply select the state(s), city(s) and type of service(s) you wish to search, and your results page will return MBE listings matching your criteria.

Select State(s):	Select City(s):	Type of Service:
Select All	Salect All	Selections,
Alabama	Acampo	All Types of Services
Alaska	Acton	Administrative Management
American Samoa	Adelanto	Aquaculture
Arizona	Adin	Business Plan Development
Arkansas	Agoura Hills	Construction Related Services
California	Aguanga	Financial Packaging
Colorado	Ahwahnee	Financial and Accounting
Connecticut	, Alameda	Franchising
Delavare	▼ Alamo	International Trade Services

To get started, you must be a registered MBE. You can create your FREE MBDA Portal Account by visiting the MBDA.gov website. If you are a registered MBE, once you have logged into the MBDA Portal, you'll find the Resource and Capital Locator underneath our our MBDA Business Applications section on the front page.

If you need assistance with using the Resource Locator application or if you need assistance with registering for your free MBDA Portal Account, call our support staff at 1 (888) 324-1551 or you may email us at help@mbda.gov or resourcelocator@mbda.gov.





Business Plan Writer: A Free Business Plan Writer Application for MBEs

The Business Plan Writer is a free online business tool that will help you to create your business plan. Getting the most from the business planning process requires a serious commitment and our free Business Plan Writer will help you produce a truly outstanding and effective document. While MBDA will be improving the Business Plan Writer within the upcoming months, our Business Plan Writer will allow you to save your information at any time so you can continue to build your business plan and you can create multiple business plans and export your data into a Rich Text Format (RTF).

Our interactive <u>Business Plan Writer</u> walks you through the process...making the Business Plan easy to create. In a logical order, The <u>Business Plan Writer</u> steps you through the business plan creation process giving explanations for each business concept. Our application also has sample business plans for you to review to help you along the way.

You need a good business plan to launch your business. A business plan is a blueprint of the steps you need to build your business. It shows potential investors that you've taken the time to think about where you are and where you want to go. A good plan can help you raise money to start or expand your company, plan for the future, and track your growth.

To get started, you must be a registered MBE. You can create your FREE MBDA Portal Account by visiting the MBDA.gov website. If you are a registered MBE, once you have logged into the MBDA Portal, you'll find the <u>Business Plan Writer</u> underneath our MBDA Business Applications section on the front page.

If you need assistance with using the Business Plan Writer application or if you need assistance with registering for your free MBDA Portal Account, call our support staff at 1 (888) 324-1551 or you may email us at help@mbda.gov.

